

Association des comités de parents anglophones English Parents' Committee Association



August 31, 2020

re: Annual General Assemblies

Dear Parents,

It is that time of year again, as you send off your child to return to classes, whether online or in person. To say that this year is unlike any we have encountered is an understatement.

More than ever, The English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) is here to speak on your behalf and represent you to government and our educational partners.

But that's only part of the job. The rest is up to you.

You will soon be receiving, if you have not already, an email from your principal notifying you about the Annual General Assembly (AGA) at your school. We urge you to attend.

Whether this all-important meeting is managed by the Chairperson of your Governing Board or rolled into the welcome assembly by your school principal, this is the moment for parent participation that can really make the difference in your child's education.

At these Annual General Assemblies, members of your Governing Board will be elected, as will delegates to your respective Parent Committees. This is the gateway to profound involvement in educational governance and gives you a front-row seat and a voice in decision-making at your child's school.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community and what drives and supports so much student success. Your time and input are valuable and valued, and as the official voice of parents of students in Quebec's English public system, EPCA implores you to get involved.

We cannot say this any more emphatically: Parents have power in their respective schools, they need only exercise it. If we are to represent you to the government and our education partners, we need you to do so on behalf of *your* community.

By standing for governing board you can be part of the important deliberations in your school regarding budgets, programs, initiatives and more. It is an opportunity to really engage with teachers, administrators and other parents, and share your unique insights and perspectives in an official forum.

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Considering public health directives, the process will be different and perhaps slightly more complex this year. You should note that schools may be holding in-person, hybrid or virtual assemblies online (via Zoom or other platforms.) You should be notified of all the details and procedures by your principal when this is determined.

However, all schools doing so virtually should have a plan in place to accommodate the large numbers of participants, voting, validation of eligibility to vote, and of course dedicated support for those who may have difficulty logging on or participating.

If you feel you are missing information, please ensure that you consult your school, school board, and Parent Committee website regularly.

Indeed, you are probably receiving a lot of information right now, as there is much to consider along with your own understandable preoccupations about your child's return to school in the current climate. So please continue to watch those emails and make sure you pencil in your rapidly-filling calendar for the Annual General Assembly.

For those Governing Board members who are returning this year, we thank you for your continued dedication and involvement as the bedrock of parent governance. We know that you will help transition new members and new energies onto Governing Boards in solidarity with and on behalf of all parents, for the sake of our children, as we face a new year with new challenges.

As always, the English Parents' Committee Association is here to stand behind you and faithfully represent your voice at every table.

We wish you a safe, healthy, enriching and rewarding schoolyear to you and your family, and we look forward to hearing from you all.

I remain,

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